

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 BIB-01 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/080 W

-----260851Z 050327 /23

R 260550Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3638
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KARACHI
AMEMBASSY LAHORE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7541

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN
SUBJECT: INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

1. AT MEETING MAY 24 WITH NEWLY ARRIVED (FROM ISLAMABAD)
POL COUNSELOR, MEA JOINT SECRETARY (PAK/AFGHAN) I.P. SINGH
AGREED THAT TO DATE INDIA HAD NOT FIGURED IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY IN
PAKISTAN'S POST-ELECTION POLITICAL CRISIS. SINGH EXPRESSED SOME
CONCERN THAT THIS WELCOME STATE OF AFFAIRS MIGHT NOT CONTINUE.
HE OBSERVED THAT IN HIS EFFORTS TO OVERCOME HIS POLITICAL DIFFICUL-
TIES, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO HAD PLAYED OUT A SERIES OF CARDS.
HE HAD ACCEPTED ISLAMIC-ORIENTED SOCIAL POLICIES, LAUNCHED A CAM-
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PAIGN ALLEGING US INTERFERENCE IN THE PAK POLITICAL PROCESS, AND,
MOST RECENTLY, HAD OFFERED WHAT SINGH CALLED THE "GIMMICK" OF
A POPULAR REFERENDUM ON HIS CONTINUING IN OFFICE. NONE OF THESE
HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ENDING THE PAK POLITICAL CRISIS. SINGH
SAID HE NOW FEARED THAT BHUTTO MIGHT FEEL CONSTRAINED TO PLAY
THE ANTI-INDIAN CARD SO FAMILIAR IN THE HISTORY OF PAK POLITICS.

2. SINGH SAID THAT THE GOI WAS BEING VERY CAREFUL TO AVOID DOING ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE THE PAKS. THE INDIANS, HE SAID, DID NOT WANT TO WALK INTO ANY POTENTIAL TRAP. UNLIKE THE IRANIANS, THEY HAD NOT COMMENTED ON BHUTTO'S REPORTED ALLEGATION THAT INDIAN AND IRANIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS HAD RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE. SINCE THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARGES HAD COME THIRD HAND (VIA PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE CHIEF MUFTI MEHMUD AS RELAYED BY HIM TO ALLIANCE LEADER PIR PAGARO) THE GOI SAW NO NEED TO REFUTE THEM PUBLICLY. (IN AN ASIDE, SINGH OBSERVED THAT IT WAS SILLY FOR BHUTTO TO HAVE MADE THE CHARGES. THE PAK ARMY, ON WHOSE SUPPORT BHUTTO NOW MUST DEPEND, IS FULLY AWARE OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE INDIAN FORCES AND KNOWS THAT NO SUCH TROOP MOVEMENTS HAVE OCCURRED. IN SINGH'S VIEWS, THE CHARGES CAN ONLY DAMAGE THE PAK PM'S CREDIBILITY WITH THIS INDISPENSABLE ALLY.)

3. SINGH SAID THAT THE GOI HAD REPLIED TO GOP COMPLAINTS ABOUT INDIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENTS BY TELLING THE PAKS THAT THE PRESS IN INDIA WAS FREE AND NOT SUBJECT TO GOVT CONTROL. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOI, HE SAID, HAD PASSED WORD TO THE PRESS THAT A MODERATE LINE ON PAKISTAN WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. TO MEET PAK OBJECTIONS TO WHAT ISLAMABAD ALLEGED WAS BIASED COVERAGE ON GOI-OWNED RADIO AND TV (PARTICULARLY IN THE USE OF FOREIGN NEWS AGENCY ACCOUNTS OF PAK DEVELOPMENTS), THE GOI HAD ADOPTED THE POLICY OF BROADCASTING STORIES WHICH INCLUDED BOTH INDEPENDENT AND OFFICIAL GOP VERSIONS OF DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE BORDER. EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON PAKISTAN HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY GIVEN UP BY ALL INDIA RADIO AND INDIAN TV, SINGH CLAIMED.

4. SINGH NOTED THAT THE GOI WAS UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM
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PARLIAMENT AND THE INDIAN PUBLIC TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN. MEA HAD RECEIVED A SPATE OF LETTERS ON THIS MATTER. PARLIAMENTARY OPINION HAD SURFACED MOST RECENTLY IN THE MAY 21 MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD THE MPS THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN WERE PAKISTAN'S DOMESTIC AFFAIR AND THAT ANY COMMENT BY THE GOI WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE.

5. SINGH SAID THAT WHAT INDIA WANTS IN PAKISTAN IS AN END TO THE PRESENT POLITICAL CONFRONTATION AND A RESTORATION OF STABLE CONDITIONS. IF THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY DEMOCRATIC METHODS SO MUCH THE BETTER. BUT IT WAS UP TO THE PAKS TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES. INDIA, FOR ITS PART, WAS PREPARED TO DO BUSINESS WITH WHATEVER GOVT WAS IN POWER IN ISLAMABAD
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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